

An Overview of the Year 9 Options Procedure: 2021

For GCSE courses starting in September 2021, course information **and** the actual option selection process will be available online.

Timeline

Sunday 29 th November 2020	Course information will become available on the Dubai College website in the following area: https://www.dubaicollege.org/academic/middle-school
Wednesday 6 th January 2021	Year 9 Online Options Evening
Wednesday 20 th January	Option choices go 'live'. Further information about this process will be made available in due course.
Tuesday 26 th January	Year 9 Consultation Evening
Thursday 28th January	GCSE Option choices deadline: 10.00am

The Online Options Evening

All students and parents have the opportunity to visit the subjects in which options are available to students. Subject staff will give a brief overview of the course and answer any subject specific questions. Senior staff will also be available to provide more general guidance about options.

The Consultation Evening

This will be a 'normal' Consultation Evening where parents and students are invited to discuss the attainment, progress and effort of their son or daughter and whether they may be suitable for further study in the subject.

Key Information

At Dubai College, the option blocks for GCSE subjects are given as detailed on the next page.

- Students choose their **3** preferred subjects online by **Thursday 28th January**, subject to one option being chosen in each block

Students and parents need to be aware of the following:

- **We reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it.** If this does occur, students will be told as soon as possible after the options deadline and offered appropriate advice;
- Students who miss the 10.00am deadline of 28th January may not receive their preferred choices;
- Students *may* change their minds about option choices at a later date; however, they will only be allowed to change (subject to the discretion of Heads of Department) if their new choice fits in with the option blocks **and** there is sufficient space available in subject sets. If there is insufficient space, then the student will be added to a waiting list for that subject. Any changes in options must be completed by Thursday 30th September 2021.

GCSE Choices: An Overview

All students have to take the following compulsory timetabled subjects in Year 10:

Mathematics

English Language

English Literature

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Arabic (or Arabic A for students who hold an Arabic passport)

UAE Social Studies

Games

Islamic Studies (for Muslim Students only)

Available Option Choices

	Choose one from:	Notes
Option 1	Art Design and Technology Drama Latin Music PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Latin is only available to students who studied the subject in Year 9.
Option 2	Computer Science Economics Geography History	
Option 3	Art Computer Science Design and Technology Drama Economics French Geography History Latin Music Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Latin is only available to students who studied the subject in Year 9.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to take a language at GCSE?

No. Under the new options structure, there is no compulsion to take any language to GCSE Level.

2. Do I have to take GCSE Arabic?

Students now have to study Arabic to the end of Year 10. For the current Year 9, we will not be making Arabic mandatory in Year 11. However, our view is that it is important to have a language as part of a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. Students need to appreciate that they will only have a further two terms of study in Year 11 before taking a GCSE in Arabic in the summer of 2023; they should weigh up this extra two terms of study in the subject against the time and effort that they have put into the subject to date when deciding whether to continue with Arabic to Year 11.

3. When will I need to make a decision about carrying on with the study of Arabic in Year 11?

To ensure that Arabic is staffed appropriately in Year 11, we will be asking for this information in January 2022.

4. If I do not opt for Arabic in Year 11, what will I do instead?

We are working on possible options at the moment and do not have a definitive answer yet. However, this may take the form of extra directed study periods, or increased curriculum time for other subjects, or a range of non-certificated courses. Further information about these will be given to students by the end of term 1 of the new academic year.

5. Will I need a foreign language qualification as an entry requirement for university?

In a very few circumstances, yes!

At University College, London, entry requirements include having a GCSE in a foreign language (this, of course, includes Arabic).

Canadian universities require French, and many Irish universities require a foreign language. Of course, entry requirements frequently change and you do need to do your own research for universities outside of the UK.